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## Biden asks Congress for more than \$13B to support Ukraine and \$12B for disaster fund

By Lisa Mascaro and Colleen Long

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Biden administration on Thursday asked Congress to provide more than \$13 billion in emergency defense aid to Ukraine and an additional \$8 billion for humanitarian support through the end of the year, another massive infusion of cash as the Russian invasion wears on and Ukraine pushes a counteroffensive against the Kremlin's deeply entrenched forces. The package includes \$12 billion to replenish the U.S. federal disaster funds at home after a deadly climate season of heat and storms, and funds to bolster the enforcement at the Southern border with Mexico, including money to curb the flow of deadly fentanyl. All told, it's a \$40 billion package. While the last such request from the White House for Ukraine funding was easily approved in 2022, there's a different dynamic this time.

A political divide on the issue has grown, with the Republican-led House facing enormous pressure to demonstrate support for the party's leader, Donald Trump, who has been very skeptical of the war. And American support for the effort has been slowly softening.

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President Joe Biden exits Air Force One after landing at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

(Francisco Kjolseth/The Salt Lake Tribune via AP)



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# Biden asks Congress for more than \$13B to support Ukraine and \$12B for disaster fund

Continued from Front

White House budget director Shalanda Young, in a letter to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, urged swift action to follow through on the U.S. "commitment to the Ukrainian peoples' defense of their homeland and to democracy around the world" as well as other needs.

The request was crafted with an eye to picking up support from Republicans, as well as Democrats, particularly with increased domestic funding around border issues — a top priority for the GOP, which has been highly critical of the Biden administration's approach to halting the flow of migrants crossing from Mexico.

Still, the price tag of \$40 billion may be too much for Republicans who are fighting to slash, not raise, federal outlays. As a supplemental request, the package the White House is sending to Congress falls outside the budget caps both parties agreed to as part of the debt ceiling showdown earlier this year.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.,

said in a statement there was strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate.

"The latest request from the Biden administration shows America's continued commitment to helping Americans here at home and our friends abroad," he said. "We hope to join with our Republican colleagues this fall to avert an unnecessary government shutdown and fund this critical emergency supplemental request." President Joe Biden and his senior national security team have repeatedly said the United States will help Ukraine "as long as it takes" to oust Russia from its borders. Privately, administration officials have warned Ukrainian officials that there is a limit to the patience of a narrowly divided Congress — and American public — for the costs of a war with no clear end.

"For people who might be concerned the costs are getting too high, we'd ask them what the costs — not just in treasure but in blood, perhaps even American blood — could be if Putin subjugates Ukraine," White House national security spokesman John Kirby said this week.

Support among the American public for providing Ukraine weaponry and direct economic assistance has softened with time. An AP-NORC poll conducted in January 2023 around the one-year mark of the conflict, found that 48% favored the U.S. providing weapons to Ukraine, down from the 60% of U.S. adults who were in favor sending Ukraine weapons in May 2022. While Democrats have generally been more supportive than Republicans of offering weaponry, their support dropped slightly from 71% to 63% in the same period. Republicans' support dropped more, from 53% to 39%.

Dozens of Republicans in the House and some GOP senators have expressed reservations, and even voted against, spending more federal dollars for the war effort. Many of those Republicans are aligning with Trump's objections to the U.S. involvement overseas. That means any final vote on Ukraine aid will likely need to rely on a hefty coalition led by Democrats from Biden's party to ensure approval.

The funding includes another \$10 billion to counter Russian and Chinese influence elsewhere by bolstering the World Bank and providing aid to resist Russian-aligned Wagner forces in Africa.

Domestically, there's an additional \$60 million to address increased wildfires that have erupted nationwide. And the request includes \$2.2 billion for Southern border management and \$766 million to curb the flow of deadly fentanyl. There is also \$100 million earmarked for the Department of Labor to ramp up investigations of suspected child labor violations.

To ease passage, Congress would likely try to attach the package to a must-pass measure for broader government funding in the U.S. that's needed by Oct. 1 to prevent any shutdown in federal offices.

Members of Congress have repeatedly pressed Defense Department leaders on how closely the U.S. is tracking its aid to Ukraine to ensure that it is not subject to fraud or ending up in the wrong hands. The Pentagon has said it has a "robust program" to track the aid as it crosses the border into Ukraine and to

keep tabs on it once it is there, depending on the sensitivity of each weapons system.

Ukraine is pushing through with its ongoing counteroffensive, in an effort to dislodge the Kremlin's forces from territory they've occupied since a full-scale invasion in February 2022. The counteroffensive has come up against heavily mined terrain and reinforced defensive fortifications.

The U.S. has approved four rounds of aid to Ukraine in response to Russia's invasion, totaling about \$113 billion, with some of that money going toward replenishment of U.S. military equipment that was sent to the frontlines. Congress approved the latest round of aid in December, totaling roughly \$45 billion for Ukraine and NATO allies. While the package was designed to last through the end of the fiscal year in September, much depends upon events on the ground.

"We remain confident that we'll be able to continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes," said Pentagon press secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder. □

## US suicides hit an all-time high last year



In this Nov. 20, 2015 file photo, a man walks along a trail during sunset near Manhattan, Kan. In 2022, about 49,500 people took their own lives in the U.S., the highest number ever, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel, File)

By Mike Stobbe  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — About 49,500 people took their

own lives last year in the U.S., the highest number ever, according to new government data posted

Thursday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which posted the numbers, has not yet calculated a suicide rate for the year, but available data suggests suicides are more common in the U.S. than at any time since the dawn of World War II.

"There's something wrong. The number should not be going up," said Christina Wilbur, a 45-year-old Florida woman whose son shot himself to death last year.

"My son should not have died," she said. "I know it's complicated, I really do. But we have to be able to do something. Something that we're not doing. Because whatever we're doing right now is not helping." Experts caution that suicide

is complicated, and that recent increases might be driven by a range of factors, including higher rates of depression and limited availability of mental health services.

But a main driver is the growing availability of guns, said Jill Harkavy-Friedman, senior vice president of research at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Suicide attempts involving guns end in death far more often than those with other means, and gun sales have boomed — placing firearms in more and more homes.

A recent Johns Hopkins University analysis used preliminary 2022 data to calculate that the nation's over-

all gun suicide rate rose last year to an all-time high. For the first time, the gun suicide rate among Black teens surpassed the rate among white teens, the researchers found.

U.S. suicides steadily rose from the early 2000s until 2018, when the national rate hit its highest level since 1941. That year saw about 48,300 suicide deaths — or 14.2 for every 100,000 Americans.

The rate fell slightly in 2019. It dropped again in 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some experts tied that to a phenomenon seen in the early stages of wars and natural disasters, when people pull together and support each other. □



## New school bus routes a 'disaster,' Kentucky superintendent admits. Last kids got home at 10 pm

**Associated Press**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)** — Kentucky's largest school system cancelled the second and third day of classes after a disastrous overhaul of the transportation system that left some children on buses until just before 10 p.m. on opening day.

Jefferson County Public Schools Superintendent Marty Pollio called it a "transportation disaster" in a video posted on social media Thursday morning. Pollio apologized to the district's 96,000 students along with their families, the bus drivers, and the school officials who had to stay with students for hours as they waited on buses to arrive Wednesday.

He called the decision to close schools on Thursday and Friday the most difficult of his career but said it was necessary. District officials will spend the four days before Monday reviewing the routes and having drivers practice them, he said. The district that encompasses



Jefferson County Public Schools school buses packed with students makes their way through the Detrick Bus Compound on the first day of school Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Louisville, Ky. (Jeff Faughender/Courier Journal via AP)

Louisville has 65,000 bus riders, according to its website.

The disaster came after major changes to school bus routes and school start times this year meant to alleviate a bus driver shortage, the Courier Journal

reported. The district spent \$199,000 to hire the Alpha-Route engineering firm to create a plan that would cut the number of bus routes and stops.

In pushing for the changes, Pollio said the district simply could not keep up with its

current routes because of the driver shortage. Even after increasing pay and cutting routes, the district did not have enough drivers, and students continued to get to school late and leave school late all year long, he said.

The district opened an online comment form for the new bus routes on July 24 and received thousands of complaints from parents concerned that their children were having to walk too far to catch the bus or that bus stops were at busy, unsafe intersections. District spokesperson Mark Hebert told the paper last week that they were continuing to review the parent requests for changes. Latasha Gomis told the paper last week that the bus for her two elementary school children was scheduled to pick them up at 6 a.m. for a 7:40 a.m. school start. The bus stop is almost a half-mile from their home and there are no sidewalks. Gomis called the district's transportation department but was told nothing could be changed, she said. Kentucky law allows bus stops for elementary students to be up to a half-mile away while middle and high school students may walk up to one mile. □

## Appeals court rules against longstanding drug user gun ban cited in Hunter Biden case

**By Lindsay Whitehurst**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A federal appeals court has ruled that drug users shouldn't automatically be banned from having guns, marking the latest sign of upheaval in the nation's firearm legal landscape and raising questions about a law cited in the case against Hunter Biden.

The opinion overturns the conviction of a Mississippi man, Patrick D. Daniels of Gulfport, who had two guns found in his car during a traffic stop last year and acknowledged using marijuana regularly but wasn't accused of driving under the influence.

The appeals court cited the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision known as *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which said gun laws must have

strong historical roots — a finding that led to challenges of many of the nation's gun laws.

"Our history and tradition may support some limits on an intoxicated person's right to carry a weapon, but it does not justify disarming a sober citizen based exclusively on his past drug usage," the three-judge panel for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans wrote in Wednesday's ruling.

The ruling raises questions about the future of the law, which also had a central role in the proposed plea deal for Hunter Biden, the president's son.

Hunter Biden had been expected to acknowledge that he had a gun during a period when he was addicted to drugs but avoid prosecution on the count if he stayed out of trouble.

The deal, which was roundly criticized by Republicans, also called for two guilty pleas on misdemeanor tax charges. But the future of the agreement is unclear after a judge raised concerns about it last month.

The Fifth Circuit is now the highest court to consider the law since the *Bruen* decision was handed down — and its ruling will likely be cited in other similar cases around the U.S., said Jake Charles, a law professor at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law who studies the Second Amendment.

"As the first federal court appeals ruling on this provision, it'll be persuasive and influential to other circuits and other district courts who are reviewing these kind of challenges," he said.

Still, judges outside the Fifth Circuit region of Louisiana,



A collection of illegal guns is displayed during a gun buyback event, May 22, 2021, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews, File)

Mississippi and Texas, aren't bound by the ruling. Since Biden's case was filed in Delaware it's not expected to have an immediate impact on the case.

The ruling also acknowledges more than a dozen other times that lower-court judges have upheld the ban on "unlawful users" of controlled substances having

guns since the *Bruen* case, though judges in some other cases have agreed that it doesn't stand up under *Bruen*.

The appeals court called the opinion relatively narrow in applying to cases similar to the Mississippi case and, overall, the law is rarely used in cases without another crime involved. □



## Prosecutors seek Jan. 2 trial date for Donald Trump in his 2020 election conspiracy case

By Alanna Durkin Richer  
Associated Press

(AP) - Prosecutors with special counsel Jack Smith's team asked a judge on Thursday to set a Jan. 2 trial date for former President Donald Trump in the case charging him with plotting to overturn his 2020 election loss.

If U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan agrees with prosecutors' proposal, the case against the early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential primary would open right before the anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, which was fueled by Trump's false claims about the election.

The proposed date is also just under two weeks before the first votes are set to be cast in the Republican presidential race, with Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses scheduled for Jan. 15.

Prosecutors said in court papers that they want the case to move to trial swiftly in Washington's federal court, setting up a likely



Special counsel Jack Smith speaks to the media about an indictment of former President Donald Trump, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, at an office of the Department of Justice in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

battle with defense attorneys who have already suggested they will try slow things down. Smith's team says the government's case should take no longer than four to six weeks.

"A January 2 trial date would vindicate the public's strong interest in a

speedy trial an interest guaranteed by the Constitution and federal law in all cases, but of particular significance here, where the defendant, a former president, is charged with conspiring to overturn the legitimate results of the 2020 presidential election,

obstruct the certification of the election results, and discount citizens' legitimate votes," prosecutors wrote. Trump's lawyers have not submitted their proposed trial date. The judge is expected to set the date during a court hearing scheduled for Aug. 28.

Trump is already scheduled to be in a courtroom in the heat of next year's presidential primary season, with a March 25 criminal trial scheduled in a separate case in New York stemming from hush money payments made during the 2016 campaign. The former president is scheduled to go to trial in May in another case brought by Smith over his handling of classified documents found at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

Trump faces charges including conspiracy to defraud the United States for what prosecutors say was a weeklong plot to subvert the will of voters and cling to power after he lost the 2020 election to Democrat Joe Biden.

The indictment accuses Trump of spreading lies about election fraud he knew were false to sow distrust in the democratic process and pressuring Vice President Mike Pence and state election officials to take action in a brazen attempt to cling to power. □

## A Georgia teacher wants to overturn her firing for reading a book to students about gender identity

By Jeff Amy  
Associated Press

**MARIETTA, Ga. (AP)** — A Georgia public school teacher took the stand Thursday trying to reverse her firing after officials said she improperly read a book on gender fluidity to her fifth grade class.

Katie Rinderle had been a teacher for 10 years when she got into trouble in March for reading the picture book "My Shadow Is Purple" at Due West Elementary School in suburban Atlanta's Cobb County.

The case has drawn wide attention as a test of what public school teachers can teach in class, how much a school system can control teachers and whether parents can veto instruction

they dislike. It comes amid a nationwide conservative backlash to books and teaching about LGBTQ+ subjects in school.

Officials in Cobb County,

Georgia's second-largest school district, argue Rinderle broke the school district's rules against teaching on controversial subjects and fired her after

parents complained. Rinderle countered that reading the book wasn't wrong, testifying that she believed it "to be appropriate" and not a "sensitive topic." She argued Thursday that the book carries a broader message for gifted students, talking "about their many interests and feeling that they should be able to choose any of their interests and explore all of their interests."

Cobb County adopted a rule barring teaching on controversial issues in 2022, after Georgia lawmakers earlier that year enacted laws barring the teaching of "divisive concepts" and creating a parents' bill of rights. The divisive concepts law, although it addresses teaching on race, bars

teachers from "espousing personal political beliefs." The bill of rights guarantees that parents have "the right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training of his or her minor child."

Goodmark argued that a prohibition of "controversial issues" is so vague that teachers can never be sure what's banned, saying the case should be dismissed. The hearing took place under a Georgia law that protects teachers from unjustified firing.

A panel of three retired school principals will make a recommendation on whether to fire or retain Rinderle, but the school board in the 106,000-student district will make the final decision. □



Cobb County teacher Katie Rinderle walks to the stand to testify during a hearing at the Cobb County Board of Education in Marietta, Ga., Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023.

(Arvin Temkar/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP)



# Dutch customs officials make record cocaine seizure worth 600 million euros

By Mike Corder  
Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Customs authorities in Rotterdam have confiscated more than 8,000 kilograms (17,600 pounds) of cocaine, the largest seizure of the drug in the Netherlands, prosecutors said Thursday.

The drugs had an estimated street value of 600 million euros (\$662 million), the Rotterdam Public Prosecution Service said in a statement. No arrests have been made yet in an investigation following the discovery, which was kept secret because of the ongoing probe. Prosecutors said the drugs, which have been destroyed, were discovered on July 13 hidden in a container of bananas from Ecuador. The announcement came the day after a presidential candidate



This picture provided on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, by the Rotterdam Public Prosecution Service shows 8,000 kilograms (17,637 pounds) of cocaine.  
(Openbaar Ministerie, Netherlands Public Prosecution Service via AP)

known for speaking out against drug cartels and corruption in the South American nation was fatally shot at a political rally. The flourishing drug trade in Europe also is fueling violence and corruption on the continent, the European Union agency that monitors drugs and addic-

tion said in its annual report in June. It said record amounts of cocaine are being seized in Europe, with 303 tons confiscated by EU member countries in 2021. Rotterdam and the Belgian port of Antwerp are now the main gateways for Latin American cocaine into the

continent, it said. The expansion of the cocaine market has been accompanied by a rise in violence and corruption in the EU, with fierce competition between traffickers leading to a rise in homicides and intimidation. Among the victims in the Netherlands in recent years

were a lawyer representing a witness in the trial of an alleged drug gangster and crime reporter Peter R. de Vries, who was a confidant of the witness.

Unspecified threats to the heir to the Dutch throne, Princess Amalia, forced her last year to abandon student accommodation in Amsterdam and continue her studies from home.

In Ecuador, drug traffickers have begun to use the country's coastal ports and have unleashed a wave of violence not seen there in decades as rival gangs battle for control.

Last month, the mayor of the port city of Manta was shot and killed. On July 26, President Guillermo Lasso declared a state of emergency covering two provinces and the country's prison system in an effort to stem the violence. □

# Italy probes a migrant boat disaster that left 41 feared dead

By Frances D'Emilio  
Associated Press

**ROME (AP)** — An Italian prosecutor investigating last week's capsizing that left 41 migrants feared dead in the Mediterranean Sea on Thursday denounced Tunisia-based smugglers who launch boats so badly built that they quickly take on water, overturn or break apart. The capsizing earlier this week was the latest in a string of similar recent tragedies that have killed dozens of people who entrusted themselves to smugglers based on Tunisia's shores to reach Italy in hopes of finding a better life.

Four young migrants who were rescued by a passing merchant ship following the Aug. 4 capsizing told doctors and police on the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa where they were brought on Wednesday that they survived by clinging to air tubes for hours.

They and a few other survivors spotted an empty boat and struggled to

reach it. But only the four of them made it to the boat and climbed aboard only to find the iron-hulled, open-topped vessel had no engine.

State TV reported that the migrants then survived for about four days on four bottles of drinking water and a half-package of crackers they found in the boat. A Malta-flagged ship rescued them, and an Italian Coast Guard vessel

took them to Lampedusa. The survivors said 41 fellow passengers, including three children, set out with them from the port of Sfax, Tunisia, on Aug. 3. Waves as high as 4 meters (13 feet) swamped the smugglers' boats the next day, they said.

The others were missing, and presumably died.

"Their story is plausible," said Chief Prosecutor Salvatore Vella, based in Agri-

gento, Sicily. "We know that the smugglers launch these boats of very poor quality with 50 to 70 migrants aboard."

Sometimes survivors of such shipwrecks include crewmen engaged by the smugglers who then try to pass themselves off as passengers.

But in this case, "we can exclude any of the four" had such a role, Vella told The Associated Press over the phone.

The boat the survivors set off in is the type hastily soldered together with pieces of iron by smugglers in Tunisia to keep up with demands by migrants desperate to make the risky journey toward Italy's shores, Vella said.

"The soldering on these boats is done only at some points, not in a solid line. ... Water gets in," Vella added. "They are criminals."

The fate of who those who might have been on board the empty vessel is not known though it's not uncommon for smugglers to

tow or transfer people between boats in the Mediterranean.

"Often boats are left behind after migrants go aboard a rescue vessel," Vella said. "We don't know why there was no engine aboard the boat" found by the survivors, but "these engines are precious, so it's possible someone took it" at sea.

Pope Francis, who since the start of his papacy has repeatedly denounced the loss of life of migrants at sea, said on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Thursday: "Let us not remain indifferent to these tragedies."

According to an official of the European Union's border agency, Frontex, a fishing boat was recently seen harassing migrants at sea off Tunisia's coast, circling around them and asking them for money in exchange for towing them to closer to Lampedusa. The official was not authorized to speak to journalists and spoke on the condition of anonymity. □



In this photo provided by Sea-Watch on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, four migrant survivors wave for help as they are in distress at sea.

(Karolina Sobel/Sea-Watch via AP, File)



# Western officials: Niger junta warned they'd kill deposed president after any military intervention

By Sam Mednick and Chin-edu Asadu

Associated Press

**NIAMEY, Niger (AP)** — Niger's junta told a top U.S. diplomat that they would kill deposed President Mohamed Bazoum if neighboring countries attempted any military intervention to restore his rule, two Western officials told The Associated Press.

They spoke to the AP shortly before the West African bloc ECOWAS said it had directed the deployment of a "standby force" to restore democracy in Niger, after its deadline of Sunday to reinstate Bazoum expired.

The threat to the deposed president raises the stakes both for ECOWAS and for the junta, which has shown its willingness to escalate its actions since it seized power on July 26.

Niger was seen as the last country in the Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert that Western nations could partner with to counter jihadist violence linked to



Motorcyclists ride by the entrance of the airport in Niamey, Niger, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Sam Mednick)

al-Qaida and the Islamic State group that has killed thousands and displaced millions of people. The international community is scrambling to find a peaceful solution to the country's leadership crisis.

Representatives of the junta told U.S. Under Secretary

of State Victoria Nuland of the threat to Bazoum during her visit to the country this week, a Western military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

A U.S. official confirmed that account, also speak-

ing on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The threats from both sides escalate tensions but hopefully nudge them closer to actually talking, said Ane-liese Bernard, a former U.S. State Department official

who specialized in African affairs and is now director of Strategic Stabilization Advisors, a risk advisory group.

"Still, this junta has escalated its moves so quickly that it's possible they do something more extreme, as that has been their approach so far," she cautioned.

Nine leaders from the 15-member West African bloc met Thursday in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to discuss their next steps.

Speaking after the talks, ECOWAS commission president Omar Alieu Touray said he could only reaffirm the decisions by "the military authorities in the sub-region to deploy a standby force of the community."

Financing had been discussed and "appropriate measures have been taken," he said.

He blamed the junta for any hardship caused by the sanctions imposed on Niger and said further actions by the bloc would be taken jointly. □

## UN Security Council to hold first open meeting on North Korea human rights situation since 2017

By Edith M Lederer

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The U.N. Security Council will hold its first open meeting on North Korea's dire human rights situation since 2017 next week, the United States announced Thursday.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters that U.N. human rights chief Volker Türk and Elizabeth Salmon, the U.N. independent investigator on human rights in the reclusive northeast Asia country, will brief council members at the Aug. 17 meeting.

Thomas-Greenfield, who is chairing the council during this month's U.S. presidency, stood with the ambassadors from Albania, Ja-

pan and South Korea when making the announcement.

Russia and China, which have close ties to North Korea, have blocked any Se-

curity Council action since vetoing a U.S.-sponsored resolution in May 2022 that would have imposed new sanctions over a spate of its intercontinental ballis-

tic missile launches. So the council is not expected to take any action at next week's meeting.

China and Russia could protest holding the open meeting, which requires support from at least nine of the 15 council members. A senior U.S. official from the U.N. mission, who was not authorized to speak publicly, indicated the U.S. has enough council support for the meeting to take place.

The Security Council imposed sanctions after North Korea's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and tightened them over the years in a total of 10 resolutions seeking so far unsuccessfully to cut funds and curb the country's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

At a council meeting last month on Pyongyang's test-flight of its developmental Hwasong-18 missile, North Korea's U.N. Ambassador Kim Song made his first appearance before members since 2017.

He told the council the test flight was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defense.

He also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war," pointing to its nuclear threats and its deployment of a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Whether ambassador Kim attends next week's meeting on the country's human rights remains to be seen. □



Delegations gather for a United Nations Security Council meeting on nuclear non-proliferation regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, March 23, 2023, at United Nations headquarters.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)



## Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

### Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast,

you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.



### Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

### (Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two cru-



cial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually

sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba





## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD** - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐





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## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use(part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

### Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure.

People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with

hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to



notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

### Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting,

otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris □

## Birds of Aruba



**ORANJESTAD —** On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook



page.

### The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

### Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

### Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □



## Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was



locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this



was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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  - 1 Stand up staple
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  - 12 Media mogul close to Winfrey
  - 43 Debussy work
  - 44 Secret meeting
  - 45 Foe
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  - 2 Logic
  - 3 Song by Ice Cube
  - 4 Day light
  - 5 Letter before zeta
  - 6 Yawning, perhaps
  - 7 Clumsy one
  - 8 Song by Ice Cube
  - 9 Hardly strict with
  - 10 Glosses
  - 17 Child's place when traveling
  - 23 Silent agcy.
  - 24 Guest's bed
  - 26 Ready to work
  - 27 Lament
  - 28 Director Rob
  - 30 "8 Mile" rapper
  - 31 Become depleted
  - 33 Ogre
  - 39 Tax
  - 41 PC-linking system

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Yesterday's answer

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AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

G X U Q A S S U V U M P U L F U G N U M

Z G Z V G . Z R A U Z M Q Z

W B A P X U Z V U Z F K B V .

— J D G Z T D G G D K U M H X A

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WITH FREEDOM, BOOKS, FLOWERS AND THE MOON, WHO COULD NOT BE HAPPY? — OSCAR WILDE

## Detroit police changing facial-recognition policy after pregnant woman says she was wrongly charged

Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — The Detroit police chief said he's setting new policies on the use of facial-recognition technology after a woman who was eight months pregnant said she was wrongly charged with robbery and carjacking in a case that was ultimately dismissed by prosecutors.

The technology, which was used on images taken from gas station video, produced leads in the case but was followed by "very poor" police work, Chief James White said.

"We want to ensure that nothing like this happens again," White said Wednesday.

His comments came two days after the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan announced a lawsuit on behalf of Porcha Woodruff, a 32-year-old Black

woman, who was arrested in February while trying to get children ready for school. There have been two similar lawsuits against Detroit.

Woodruff was identified as a suspect in a January robbery and carjacking through facial-recognition technology. She denied any role.

The Wayne County prosecutor's office said charges later were dropped because the victim did not appear in court.

White said his officers will not be allowed "to use facial-recognition-derived images in a photographic lineup. Period."

He said two captains must review arrest warrants when facial technology is used in a case, among other changes. The new policies will be presented to the Detroit Police Board



Porcha Woodruff poses on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in Oak Park, Mich.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

of Commissioners. White said there must be other evidence, outside the technology, for police to believe a suspect had the "means, ability and opportunity to commit the crime." □

## 2 robotaxi services seeking to bypass safety concerns and expand in San Francisco face pivotal vote



A Waymo driverless taxi stops on a street in San Francisco for several minutes because the back door was not completely shut, while traffic backs up behind it, on Feb. 15, 2023.

(AP Photo/Terry Chea, file)

By Michael Liedtke

Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** vote (AP)

— California regulators are poised to decide whether two rival robotaxi services can provide around-the-clock rides throughout San Francisco, despite escalating fears about recurring incidents that have caused the driverless vehicles to block traffic or imperil public safety.

If the state's Public Utilities Commission approves expansions sought by robotaxi services Cruise and Waymo in a vote scheduled Thursday, San Francisco will become the first major U.S. city with two fleets of driverless vehicles competing for passengers against ride-hailing and taxi services dependent on humans to operate the cars. □

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24/7



# Closure of 3 Southern California power plants likely to be postponed, state energy officials decide



A man pushes a stroller near the AES power plant in Redondo Beach, Calif., Sept. 7, 2022.  
(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

**By Sophie Austin**  
**Associated Press**  
**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**

— Temperatures in many California cities are cooling down this week, but a debate is simmering on how to generate enough electricity to power the state through extreme weather events while transitioning away from a reliance on fossil fuels.

The California Energy Commission voted Wednesday to extend the life of three gas power plants along the state's southern coast through 2026, postponing a shutoff deadline previously set for the end of this year. The vote would keep the decades-old facilities Ormond Beach Generating Station, AES Alamitos and AES Huntington Beach open so they can run during emergencies.

The state is at a greater risk of blackouts during major events when many Californians simultaneously crank up their air conditioning, such as a blistering heat wave. "We need to move faster in incorporating renewable energy. We need to move faster at incorporating battery storage. We need to build out chargers faster," commissioner Patricia Monahan said. "We're

working with all the energy institutions to do that, but we are not there yet."

The plan, put together by the state's Department of Water Resources, still needs final approval from the State Water Resources Control Board, which may vote on the issue next week. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation last year creating an energy reserve the state could use as a last resort if there is likely to be an energy shortage. The law allowed the Department of Water Resources to fund

or secure power sources in those instances.

The commission acknowledged it was a difficult decision. Environmentalists say the state needs to transition to more short- and long-term solutions that will help it move away from fossil fuels and to rely more on renewable energy sources like solar and wind. They're also concerned about the health impacts associated with pollution from gas plants.

Few people spoke in support of keeping the plants

open during about three hours of public comment. Neither GenOn, the company running the Ormond Beach plant, nor AES, which runs the Alamitos and Huntington Beach plants, responded to email requests for comment on the vote.

At Wednesday's meeting, activists said residents cannot be sure the state will not decide to again extend the life of these plants in another three years. Siva Gunda, the commission's vice-chair, said the state should better prepare a strategy for ending operations of the plants by 2026. The three plants were originally set to shut down in 2020 under state regulations aimed at power plants that suck up ocean water to cool down their equipment. Many similar power plants have already shut down to comply with those rules. □



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## Kuwait and Lebanon move to ban 'Barbie' ahead of film's Mideast release

By Nick El Hajj

Associated Press

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — "Barbie" is set to open across the Middle East on Thursday, but moves by Kuwait and Lebanon to ban the film for allegedly threatening conservative values have raised questions over how widely it will be released.

The film centered upon the anatomically improbable American dolls contains no overt sexuality or references to LGBTQ+ rights. But it seems to have drawn fire because of its sheer flamboyance and broad message of inclusion and gender equality in a region where homosexuality is widely seen as taboo.

Kuwait announced its ban late Wednesday, saying the film promotes "ideas and beliefs that are alien to the Kuwaiti society and public order," without elaborating, according to a statement published by the state-run KUNA news agency.

In Lebanon, Culture Minister Mohammad Mortada said the film was found to



Ryan Gosling, left, and Margot Robbie pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Barbie' on July 12, 2023, in London.

"contradict values of faith and morality" and to "promote homosexuality and sexual transformation." His request to ban the film was forwarded to Lebanon's General Security agency, which falls under the Interior Ministry and traditionally handles censorship decisions. The move sparked an

uproar in Lebanon, which long was an island of relative tolerance for gay men and lesbians. The LGBTQ+ community there has come under growing pressure in recent years as powerful Islamist and far-right Christian groups have gained influence amid a severe economic crisis.

(Scott Garfitt/Invision/AP, File)

Across the Middle East, many Muslims, Christians and Jews consider same-sex relations to be sinful. In some parts of the Arab world, members of the LGBTQ+ community have been arrested and sentenced to prison.

In Iraq, regulators banned media from using the word

"homosexuality," instead ordering outlets to refer to it as "sexual deviance." A similar order issued by the country's education minister banned the word from universities.

On Thursday, Muslim-majority Malaysia banned all Swatch products that contain LGBTQ+ elements, including watches, wrappers and boxes, with possession punishable by up to three years in prison.

The all-star cast of "Barbie" includes Kate McKinnon, who is gay, and transgender actor Hari Nef. Many in the LGBTQ+ community have embraced the film, even as some have criticized it as pushing a heteronormative narrative.

The Warner Bros. movie has grossed over \$1 billion in less than a month since opening in other markets. The film led and produced by Margot Robbie, directed and co-written by Greta Gerwig crossed \$400 million domestic and \$500 million internationally faster than any other movie at the studio, including the Harry Potter films. □

## Disney to boost prices for ad-free Disney+ and Hulu services and vows crackdown on password sharing

By David Hamilton

Associated Press

**(AP)** - Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger vowed to make its streaming services profitable via a planned October price hike on its ad-free Disney+ and Hulu plans and a crackdown on password sharing expected to extend through next year. The increases will raise the monthly cost of ad-free Disney+ by \$3, or roughly 27%, to almost \$14. The cost of ad-free Hulu will likewise rise \$3 to almost \$18 a 20% hike that will make it more expensive than the most popular ad-free tier at Netflix.

Iger spoke following Disney's release of mixed earnings for its fiscal third quarter ended July 1. The company reported a sub-

stantial net loss while shedding customers in both domestic and international markets. Overall, Disney reported a 4% increase in revenue for the quarter but swung to a net loss of \$460 million from a year-earlier profit of \$1.4 billion. Disney shares, which closed at \$87.49, rose roughly 2.2% to \$89.45 in after-hours trading.

The Disney CEO acknowledged that the price hikes are intended to steer consumers toward cheaper ad-supported versions of these services, whose subscription prices are not changing. The advertising market for streaming is "picking up," he said, noting that it's healthier than traditional TV ads. "We're obviously trying with our

pricing strategy to migrate more subs to the advertising supported tier."

Iger didn't provide details about the password-sharing crackdown beyond saying that Disney could reap some benefits in 2024, although he added that the work "might not be completed" that year and that Disney couldn't predict how many password sharers would switch to paid subscriptions.

Some analysts doubted whether price hikes and getting tough on password sharers can do much to lead Disney back to sustainable growth. Paul Verna, an analyst with Insider Intelligence, said in a note that the company's moves aren't likely to calm investors "anxious for clarity on

the company's strategy for its streaming services and TV networks."

While a narrowing in Disney's streaming losses is heartening, he argued, the improvements owed more to dramatic cost-cutting than organic growth, sug-

gesting that Iger still doesn't have a plan for putting Disney on a sound footing.

Disney is in the middle of a "strategic reorganization" that includes cutting about 7,000 jobs to help save \$5.5 billion across the company. □



The Walt Disney Co. logo appears on a screen above the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Aug. 7, 2017.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)



## Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz wins in Toronto in first match since Wimbledon title

**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz won in his first match since his Wimbledon victory, beating Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (3) in the National Bank Open on Wednesday night. Preparing for his U.S. Open title defense, the 20-year-old Alcaraz ran his match winning streak to 13, dating to his Queen's title run. The Spanish star has won six titles this year.

"I tried to play my level but it wasn't easy," Alcaraz said. "He was more aggressive than me from the beginning to the last ball. I tried to be solid and to get my rhythm and I'm really happy to be through to have an opportunity in the next round. This match will help me to be more focused in the next round, to put my game first in the beginning of the match."

In the third round, Alcaraz will face 15th-seeded Hubert Hurkacz, a 5-7, 6-3, 6-0 winner over Miomir Kecmanovic.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns a shot to United States' Ben Shelton during the National Bank Open men's tennis tournament Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Toronto.

(Mark Blinch/The Canadian Press via AP)

Second-seeded Daniil Medvedev topped Matteo Arnaldi 6-2, 7-5 in the afternoon. The 2021 winner in Toronto, Medvedev played

his first match since losing in the Wimbledon semifinals.

"I felt great," said Medvedev, the third-ranked Russian who has five titles this

year. "I could have done a little bit better in the second set, but at the same time I saved break points in two or three games, so

pretty good match. From here, I need to improve."

Three top-five seeds tumbled out. Gael Monfils upset fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-3; Marcos Giron eliminated Holger Rune 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; and Mackenzie McDonald ousted sixth-seeded Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-3.

"I knew that Stef had a lot of confidence," Monfils said. "He would try to go for his shots. I tried to put a lot of balls in, tried to hit quite heavy and not let him dictate too much. I think I did it well."

Andy Murray, the 2009, 2010 and 2015 champion, advanced with a 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-5 victory over Max Purcell.

In an all-Italian match, seventh-seeded Jannik Sinner beat Matteo Berrettini 6-4, 6-3. Sinner will face Murray in the third round.

Eighth-seeded Taylor Fritz outlasted Ugo Humbert 7-6 (7), 3-6, 6-3, and Canadian Milos Raonic edged Taro Daniel 6-4, 6-3. □

## Hayes drives in 3 runs for 3rd straight game as Pirates rally past Braves 7-5

**By Will Graves**

**Associated Press**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Ke'Bryan Hayes drove in three runs for the third straight game, Liover Peguero knocked in two

and the Pittsburgh Pirates rallied past the Atlanta Braves 7-5 on Thursday. Pittsburgh salvaged a split of a four-game series with the NL East leaders by overcoming an early four-run

deficit behind Hayes and a strong effort out of the bullpen by Thomas Hatch (1-0). Hatch, claimed off waivers from Toronto on Sunday, worked four scoreless innings in relief of Bailey Falter to earn his first victory in nearly three years. Colin Holderman worked around an RBI single by Ronald Acuña Jr. in the ninth to earn the second save of his career.

Matt Olson hit his 40th home run of the season for Atlanta to move into a tie with Shohei Ohtani for the major-league lead but struck out looking as the tying run in the ninth to end it. Orlando Arcia also homered for the Braves. Austin Riley added three hits, but Atlanta's scuffling starting pitching couldn't hold an early 4-0 lead. □



Pittsburgh Pirates' Ke'Bryan Hayes hits a two-run single off Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Bryce Elder during the third inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)



Anthony Edwards of the Minnesota Timberwolves drives up the court during training camp for the United States men's basketball team Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, in Las Vegas.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

## Edwards fined \$50,000 by the NBA for his chair chuck after the Timberwolves' ouster in Denver

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Minnesota Timberwolves All-Star guard Anthony Edwards was fined \$50,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for a postgame outburst following the team's ouster from the playoffs in Denver.

NBA executive vice president of basketball operations Joe Dumars announced that Edwards was punished for "recklessly swinging a chair in frustration that struck two bystanders as he exited the court." □



## Raleigh hits go-ahead homer, Hancock shines in MLB debut as Mariners beat Padres 6-1

By Shane Lantz  
Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Cal Raleigh put Seattle ahead with a two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth inning, Emerson Hancock allowed just two hits in his major league debut, and the Mariners beat the San Diego Padres 6-1 on Wednesday night for their seventh straight win.

Raleigh's 450-foot homer came against Padres reliever Steven Wilson (1-1), and started a five-run inning for the Mariners. The homer looked nearly identical to the walk-off blast Raleigh hit last Sept. 30 against Oakland A's pitcher Domingo Acevedo, which broke Seattle's 21-year playoff drought.

"It was a no-doubter," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "He hits it, the finish is up high, he looks at the dugout. Like I said, we've seen that before. He's going really good right now, we're seeing him hit the long ball, and the quality of at-bat is really good."

Ty France drove in another run in the inning with an RBI



Seattle Mariners' Ty France hits an RBI double against the San Diego Padres during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, in Seattle.

(AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson)

double, and later scored on a bloop single by Cade Marlowe.

Hancock allowed just one run in five innings, combining with five relievers on a four-hitter.

Ha-Seong Kim walked to lead off the game against Hancock, stole second and third, and scored on a soft

grounders by Juan Soto. Kim also singled in the third to extend his career-best hitting streak to 15 games.

"The first inning was kind of tough to settle in, for sure," Hancock said. "Just trying to slow things down, trying to find a rhythm, trying to get things going, and (Raleigh) did such a good job

of just sticking to what we talked about, and slowing me down, and making pitches that we had to. Once we got to probably about the third inning, that's when it just felt like pitching again."

Seattle tied it 1-1 in the third inning, when J.P. Crawford drove in Marlowe on a sac-

rifice fly to right field against Yu Darvish, who allowed one unearned run on six hits over six innings.

Crawford crumpled to the infield dirt after colliding with third baseman Eugenio Suarez in the fourth inning, and stayed down for awhile before being helped to his feet.

He stayed in the game, but was replaced by pinch-hitter Dylan Moore in the eighth inning. Afterward, Servais said that Crawford is being evaluated for a concussion, but the Mariners won't know the results until Thursday.

"He just felt it wasn't right," Servais said. "Talking to our trainers an inning or two later, the best thing was to get him out of the game. We'll check him out tonight. Tomorrow, we'll see how he feels and see where it goes from there."

Moore drove in a run in the eighth for Seattle with a single against Tom Cosgrove. Matt Brash (8-3) pitched a scoreless eighth inning to pick up the win, and Isaiah Campbell got the last three outs. □

## Neymar heading toward exit from Paris Saint-Germain, AP source says

By Graham Dunbar  
Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — Neymar is headed for an exit from Paris Saint-Germain to follow his former teammate Lionel Messi away from the French champion in its turbulent summer.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press talks are moving toward Neymar leaving the club this month. The person spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential negotiations.

The 31-year-old Brazil international was widely reported to have told PSG this week he wants to leave, just days before the team begins its French title defense. His expected preference is a return to Bar-

celona, which he left for a world-record fee of 222 million euros (\$244 million) six years ago.

The Qatar-owned club is

also dealing with uncertainty over Kylian Mbappé's future at his hometown club.

New PSG coach Luis Enrique is expected to ad-



PSG's Neymar celebrates after scoring the first goal during a friendly soccer match against Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors in Busan, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

(Yoon Dong-jin/Yonhap via AP)

dress the media Friday ahead of the team's season opener against Lorient on Saturday.

Luis Enrique coached Neymar for some of the Brazilian's peak years at Barcelona.

A storied forward line of Messi, Neymar and Luis Suárez fired Barcelona to a treble-winning season of Champions League, La Liga and Spanish Cup in 2014-15.

Eight years later, it is unclear Luis Enrique sees Neymar as key to his plans in Paris despite Messi's summer departure to Inter Miami and doubts about Mbappé.

Mbappé has been banished from first-team training in an open dispute with PSG over his wish to play out

the final season of his contract and join Real Madrid as a free agent next year. PSG has said it cannot let Mbappé leave for free and wants to sell him now if he will not extend his contract. Though PSG accepted a world-record bid of 300 million euros (\$330 million) for Mbappé from Al Hilal, the France star declined to meet the Saudi Arabian club's officials in Paris.

The Saudi Pro League is also a possible destination for Neymar with state-backed clubs easily able to afford the transfer fee and salary he would command.

Barcelona used close to half of the sum it received for Neymar in 2017 to buy Ousmane Dembélé from Borussia Dortmund. □